

It's Smart To Be Gallery Wise!

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

N E W S

F L A S H E S

May 12 - 31, - 1 9 3 5

SOUTHWEST INDIAN EXHIBITION: The three loan galleries present a colourful display of the art of the Southwest Indian, in which we see a number of little known phases shown for the first time in Kansas City. The exhibition has been assembled and lent by the Fred Harvey Company.

Outstanding in interest are the sand paintings. They are the sacred paintings of the Navajos and made only for their religious ceremonies, after which they are destroyed. They have been reproduced and shown for the first time. Their decorative beauty is indisputable, and recall to mind the frescoes of an Egyptian tomb, or the figures on a Greek vase. They are never meant to be pictorial; every figure, every line or dot is a symbol.

They are made by the medicine man who is painter, singer and dancer. The sand paintings are not recorded, but are made entirely from memory, and the tradition is handed on to his followers. That some of them have varying conceptions of the same ceremony may be seen by comparing two reproductions of the identical ritual which are contained in the exhibition. In the center of the large gallery there is a small real painting, made with the coloured sands the medicine man uses.

Second in interest will be the small watercolour Pueblo paintings, made by the Indians today, and seen for the first time in a large number of examples. They are the curious product of the meeting of two civilizations, that of Europe with its pictorial representations, and that of the Indian with his rituals that have never before been committed to paper. For the most part they depict various dances, but some of them are portraits of individuals. The drawing is often primitive, but the decorative quality of the composition is always striking.

Included also is a group of old blankets, perhaps the finest collection ever shown together. Some of them are so rare and so old, that paintings of them have been made to preserve the design and colour. A number of the paintings are shown with the blankets. Unique here is an embroidered counterpane, which shows strong Moorish elements of design that must have come from Spain.

Most colourful are the Katchina Dolls of the Hopi Tribe, which represent deities similar in the old Greek religion to Jupiter, Mars, etc. Each clan has its own Katchina, and on the day of the festival, the people dress in costume and masks similar to that worn by their own deity. The small figures or dolls are given to the children on Katchina day, just as we give toys at Christmas time. A group of wooden figures of the Snake Dance and the Antelope Dance are very old and unique.

The children will be particularly interested in this exhibition, and the grown ups will marvel at the beauty displayed in many of the objects.

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FRANS HALS: The arresting Portrait of a Gentleman by Hals, the painter of jovial fishwives and prosperous burghers, will be the masterpiece of the week for May 12th. The life of the artist and his foremost position in Dutch 17th century art will be the subject of the lecture to be given by Mr. Beam in the Atkins Auditorium on Wednesday Evening, May 15th.

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DEGAS AND BASSANO: Mrs. David Lighton has presented to the Gallery a fine drawing by Honoré Degas, the French 19th century artist recently represented in our loan exhibition, entitled "Après le Bain". It is particularly acceptable as Degas cannot yet be purchased for the permanent collection. Mrs. Lighton has also made a gift of an "Announcement to the Shepherds", attributed to Jacopo Bassano, the 16th century artist of the Venetian School.

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EGYPTIAN BREADMAKER: A rare sculpture from the Old Dynasty, depicting a slave making bread, will be the Masterpiece of the Week for May 19th. Of polychrome sandstone, these figurines were placed in the tomb to serve the deceased in the hereafter. It is comparable to the one in the Louvre, and will be a welcome addition to our Egyptian collection.

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DANCE OF SIVA: Miss Hughes will lecture Wednesday evening, May 22nd, in Atkins Auditorium, on the Dance of Siva and our superb bronze statue of that deity. Only in the museum at Madras, India, can one find a representation comparable to ours.

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MUSICAL PROGRAM: The last of the series of Sunday afternoon concerts by Tau Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota will be given May 19th at three-thirty o'clock in the Atkins Auditorium. The Gallery is most grateful to the members of Sigma Alpha Iota for the splendid programs they have furnished and for their interest in the Gallery. The concert on May 19th will consist of works by American composers.

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WOODCUTS: Mr. Alfred Fowler, President of the Woodcut Society, has presented the Gallery with a large group of woodcuts, many of them copies of those now being shown in the exhibition of that society at present on exhibition in our print rooms. It is planned to use some of these as small circulating exhibitions which will be available to nearby clubs, schools and libraries, with only a transportation charge.

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REPOSE: The beautiful landscape "Repose" by Gainsborough, which catches so surely the picturesque and lovely landscape of the English countryside, will be the Masterpiece of the Week for May 26th. The artist prized it so highly, that he kept it until his death and left it to his daughter, to be her wedding gift. The life of Gainsborough, who was an accomplished musician as well as portrait and landscape painter, will be the subject of Mr. Beam's lecture in the Atkins Auditorium on Wednesday evening, May 29th.

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SUMMER CLOSINGS: Beginning the first of June, the Gallery will discontinue its Wednesday evening openings for the summer.

Thursday, May 30th, Decoration Day and a holiday, the Gallery will be open from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. without an admission charge.

LUK'S "FORTUNE TELLER": The Estate of George Luks has very graciously made an indefinite loan to the Gallery of "The Fortune Teller", by that sterling American artist who died last year. No other painter of our time had a more kindly philosophy, and no other artist was able to catch with such understanding and sympathy the colourful characters of New York City. The Fortune Teller has been hung in Gallery XXX.

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MUSEUM CONVENTIONS: The Director, Mr. Gardner, will leave next week to attend the several museum conventions being held in the East. He will address the Association of Art Museum Directors in Worcester on May 18th, and the College Art Association and The American Association of Museums in Washington the following week.



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COPLEY AND BINGHAM: The fine portrait of Captain Cooke by Copley and our outstanding Fishing on the Mississippi by Bingham have returned from exhibitions in the East and have been rehung in Gallery XXIX.

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TROOST PORTRAITS: The Board of Education has made a most gracious and generous gesture to the Gallery in the recent gift of the Portrait of Dr. and Mrs. Troost by George Caleb Bingham. Certainly the finest works from his hand, it is fitting that they should hang in the Gallery where all Kansas City may enjoy them. They have been placed in Gallery XXIX.

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REMBRANDT HONORED: The Rijks Museum of Amsterdam, Holland, has just paid our "Youth with a Black Hat" a great compliment by inviting it to the great Rembrandt show to be held there this summer. It is regretted that dangers from climatic changes seem to make it inadvisable to send it across the ocean to this great exhibition, to which only the greatest Rembrandts have been invited.

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LECTURE SCHEDULE

Gallery Tours -	May 14 -	Masterpiece of the Week	- Mr. Beam
May 14 thru	" 15 -	Chinese Pottery and	- Mr. Wittmann
May 31 - at		Porcelain	
3 p.m. - No	" 16 -	American Wing	- Miss Jackson
charge to	" 17 -	Italian and Spanish	- Mr. Freeman
join them.		Painting	
	May 21 -	Masterpiece of the Week	- Mr. Beam
	" 22 -	Prints	- Mr. Freeman
	" 23 -	The Near East	- Miss Hughes
	" 24 -	Dutch, Flemish and	- Mr. Beam
		English Painting	
	May 28 -	Masterpiece of the Week	- Mr. Beam
	" 29 -	Chinese and Japanese	- Mr. Wittmann
		Collections	
	" 30 -	No lecture - Decoration Day	
	" 31 -	European Sculpture	- Mr. Freeman
Evening lectures -	May 15 -	Frans Hals	- Mr. Beam
	May 22 -	The Dance of Siva	- Miss Hughes
	May 29 -	Gainsborough	- Mr. Beam

WILLIAM BLOOMFIELD GALLERY  
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